

"The Lord's Encouragement to ALL Believers"

Part 14

1 Peter 1:1-2:10

Introduction: Last week in our study we looked at 1 Peter 2:1-2. In these verses Peter instructed his readers to lay aside 5 sinful attitudes which are possible when dealing with people that are difficult.

Notice 1 Peter 2:1

They/we are to lay aside:

1. All malice
2. All guile
3. Hypocrisies
4. Envy
5. All evil speakings

When we were born again these attitudes all went out of style. These are all horizontal sins which means they pertain to our fellow man.

Peter went on in verse 2 to instruct his readers concerning their vertical relationship which is their relationship with God.

Notice 1 Peter 2:2

Believers are to be like newborn babies in that just as a baby desires milk so the believer should desire the Word of God to grow spiritually stronger. Spiritual strength only comes from a steady diet of God's Word.

The problem in many churches and with many believers today is that there is a famine in their lives. It is not a famine of physical food, but it is a famine of the Word of God. With many people the famine is self-inflicted because they neglect to be faithful in church and they have little time to read their Bibles in a way in which they can actually drink it in. We should be like the hart in Psalm 42.

Psalm 42:1-2

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God.

² *My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*

We should long for the Word just as the hart desires the cool refreshing water from the mountain brook. For a believer to neglect the Word is dangerous and it is surrendering the blessings that are gained from the Word of God.

Ephesians 4:11-14

¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

There is also the warning which Paul gave to Timothy.

2 Timothy 4:1-2

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

² Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

So, getting back to Peter's thoughts, each believer has the responsibility and duty of feeding upon the Word of God.

Notice 1 Peter 2:3

When each believer was first saved, we tasted of the grace of the Lord. The refreshment and the satisfaction were beyond anything that words can describe as we experienced the forgiveness of God. Peter's idea is that was just the beginning. There is so much more as we feed upon His Word.

Peter will now give his readers another responsibility/duty.

➤ **Keep Coming to Jesus**

Notice 1 Peter 2:4

The words "**to whom coming**" actually means, "**constantly coming to Jesus**". We are to be constantly coming to Jesus Christ and pursuing more and more of Him. Why does Peter mention this to these believers? In the face of the persecution there would be the temptation to turn to other sources for help and advice.

Remember when the Covid lockdowns first started? There was the temptation run to many different sources to hear what others had to say. With many I am sure that they listened to the news reports far more than they came to Jesus. Let us be reminded that Jesus is the Source of our comfort and the Source of our hope. It is in Him that we find joy in the midst of the trials of life.

John 15:1-5, 9-11

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman.

² *Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.*

³ *Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.*

⁴ *Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.*

⁵ *I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.*

⁹ *As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love.*

¹⁰ *If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love: even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love.*

¹¹ *These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.*

Jesus invites us to come and bring our burdens to Him.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Notice 1 Peter 2:4 again.

It is interesting here that Jesus is referred to as a "STONE". Peter may have had several thoughts in this statement.

1. Jesus is the chief corner stone of the church.

Isaiah 28:16

¹⁶ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste.

Ephesians 2:19-20

¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

²⁰ And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

A corner stone of a building was very important. It was the first stone laid and the rest of the building was aligned with the corner stone. It was set for level, plumb, and square. It gave the builders a solid reference for the construction of the building.

Jesus being the corner stone of the church is the One upon whom the church is built.

Matthew 16:15-18

¹⁵ He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?

¹⁶ And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.

¹⁷ And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Now since Jesus is the chief corner stone then we are to keep coming to Him to keep our lives aligned with Him. We are to keep a check upon our lives in the light of His holiness

and His righteousness. We are not to compare ourselves to other people, but we are to measure our lives by the life of Jesus Christ. He is the chief corner stone.

2. Jesus is the Stone/Rock of security.

There was a time in the life of David when his son Absalom attempted to overthrow him and even have him killed. When David was in the midst of fleeing from Absalom he wrote several Psalms. One of them is a great source of encouragement for us when life becomes overwhelming.

Psalm 61:1-4

Hear my cry, O God; attend unto my prayer.

² *From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I.*

³ *For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy.*

⁴ *I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings.*

When Hannah praised the Lord for Samuel, she referred to God as her Rock of stability.

1 Samuel 2:1-2

And Hannah prayed, and said, My heart rejoiceth in the LORD, mine horn is exalted in the LORD: my mouth is enlarged over mine enemies; because I rejoice in thy salvation.

² *There is none holy as the LORD: for there is none beside thee: neither is there any rock like our God.*

Application:

Jesus is our Rock of security in the midst of stressful times. Therefore, we need to keep coming to Him and pursuing more and more of Him. He is immovable and so are we when we cling to the Rock.

Psalm 18:2, 31, 46

² *The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.*

³¹ *For who is God save the LORD? or who is a rock save our God?*

⁴⁶ *The LORD liveth; and blessed be my rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted.*

3. Jesus is the Stone/Rock of refreshment.

1 Corinthians 10:3-4

³ *And did all eat the same spiritual meat;*

⁴ *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

Exodus 17:1, 5-6

And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink.

⁵ *And the LORD said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go.*

⁶ *Behold, I will stand before thee there upon the rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite the rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel.*

Israel found refreshment in the Rock as they passed through a dry and barren land. The water from the Rock sustained them in the wilderness.

Application:

This is why we are to keep coming to the Living Stone. We can drink of the spiritual drink that will sustain us in the dry land that we are in. Jesus is our Guide to keep us aligned, He is our Stability, and He is our Refreshment.

I need to also point out here that Jesus is the LIVING Stone. Peter is sure to tell us that He is living because he wants his readers to remember that our corner Stone/Rock is the Source of all life. The water He gives is Living Water.

John 4:10-14

¹⁰ *Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.*

¹¹ The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water?

¹² Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

¹³ Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:

¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

Conclusion:

Notice 1 Peter 2:4 again.

Jesus was rejected by many of His day, but He is precious to God the Father. Why does Peter mention this here? They were being persecuted for their faith in Christ. Those who persecuted them were rejecting Christ, but Peter wanted them to know that Jesus, whom they represented, was precious to God.

Let us stand firm for our Lord regardless of what the world says or does. Let us understand that our Lord is precious in the since that He is life, and He is what the world needs. Therefore, let us not be ashamed to ever stand with Him no matter the cost.